

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

I.

Favorable consideration of this application, as presently amended, is respectfully requested.

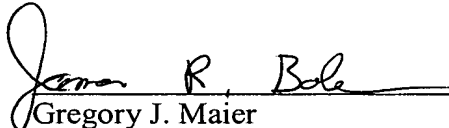
Claims 1 and 2 are presently active in the application. Claim 2 is added by the present amendment.

Claim 1 has been amended to provide antecedent basis for "the image forming apparatus" and "the image reading apparatus" set forth in line 7, and an obvious error in the last line has been corrected. New claim 2 defines the claimed subject matter in a means plus function format pursuant to 35 USC 112, 6<sup>th</sup> paragraph. No new matter has been added.

An early and favorable examination on the merits is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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